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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014

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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2104

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BULLYING FEAR OF KIDS FROM IN-DEBT FAMILIES

REPORT SAYS CHILDREN SUFFERING AND UNHAPPY AT SCHOOL

Thousands of children in Northampton go without daily essentials and even face bullying at school as a result of debt problems, which affect 20 per cent of families in the town.

Research by The Children's Society and StepChange debt charity revealed that more than 5,000 Northampton families were trapped by debt, owing a total of just under £10 million.

The total owed in other parts of the county is: Wellingborough £6,686,454; South Northamptonshire £4,220,824; Kettering £4,805,889; Daventry £4,617,832; Corby £6,143,180.

A spokesman for the charities said: "Children in families with problem debt are more than twice as likely to be unhappy at school and be bullied because they don't have the same things as their friends.

"More than half of children in families with problem debt say they worry about their family's financial situation.

"Nine out of 10 families in problem debt say they have had to cut back on essentials like food, clothing or heating to keep up with repayments."

This means an estimated total of 172,000 children in the region are affected by debt, which, the charities report, can cause them to suffer from worry and anxiety, experience bullying and miss out on essentials.

Matthew Reed, chief executive of The Children's Society, said: "Families in the East Midlands are increasingly relying on debt as a way to make ends meet, but we're in danger of ignoring the impact this is having on children now and in the future. We cannot allow children to pay the price of debt.

"This research exposes the shocking reality of parents lying awake at night worrying and unhappy children going without. Many families are feeling the squeeze and parents struggling on low wages are battling just to pay the bills."

Mike O'Connor, chief executive of StepChange, said: "As parents become trapped in a toxic cycle of debt, children can become the unwitting victims. This is not acceptable in a society that aspires to justice and fairness."

The statistics follow the launch of The Debt Trap, a campaign by The Children's Society to lift the lid on the impact of debt on children's lives.

It reveals that struggling families in the East Midlands are, on average, each behind on payments by £2,000, adding up to a total of £203 million in bills and loans.

Further analysis showed families with dependant children were most likely to become trapped in a "downward spiral of borrowing" as they are more likely to face unexpected bills.

Thousands of children say they are picked on because they cannot afford the same things as other families

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'Please help catch the people who caused Joanna's crash'

A grieving husband has re-issued a plea to find the vandals that sabotaged his wife's car after an inquest in Northampton found her death was caused by unlawful killing.

Joanna Smith's car crashed after her tyres had been deliberately cut

Newly-wed Joanna Smith, 32, was driving to work along the A45 near Earls Barton on April 10, 2012, when a punctured tyre caused her Honda Jazz to swerve violently before hitting the slope of a road barrier and careering into a sign.

Police launched a manslaughter probe immediately after her death as it was believed Mrs Smith's tyres were cut deliberately beforehand, causing a slow deflation she did not notice until nine miles into her journey.

Speaking after an inquest last week, her husband, John Smith, said he believed there were people who knew those responsible.

He appeal to these people to come forward and said: "You know who did it, you know who it was. Just look at the pain and upset you have caused to people's lives.

"Joanna was a good person who didn't deserve this."

On the evening of April 9, 2012, Mrs Smith's car was parked outside their apartment at Wilks Walk, in Grange Park. Her Honda was thought to have been one of two vehicles targeted by vandals that night.

The second, a blue Fiat Punto owned by a neighbour, had a driver's rearside wheel slashed, but in this instance the car owner, Rachael Knight, noticed the flat tyre on reversing out of the car park.

Three other cars in the area had been attacked the night before.

Mrs Smith's tyre was punctured in such a way it would have appeared to be in a normal condition, according to collision investigator, Pc Cliff Wilkins, of Northamptonshire Police, who spoke at the inquest.

"It's quite possible Joanna was completely unaware of the semi-deflated condition of her tyre," he said. "It is a lot more difficult to detect if it is a rear tyre."

At around nine-and-a-half miles into her journey, the outer tyre wall of the tyre 'disintegrated' , Pc Wilkins added, which he said could cause cars to swerve rapidly from 'side-to-side' as witnesses to the crash had described.

'Everyone says how lovely and caring she was'

He concluded: "That loss of control was primarily caused by the deliberate actions of the people that committed that criminal damage. The culpability must rest solely with that person or persons."

Mrs Smith, originally from Poznan, in Poland, managed a Co-operative pharmacy in Irchester and married husband, John, a sports reporter, in 2011. She would drive the 15 miles from her home to work every day and was described as a competent driver, the court heard.

In a statement read out at the inquest, Mr Smith paid tribute to his wife.

He said: "She was a very positive and vibrant person, someone you couldn't help but like.

"Everyone has said since her death how lovely and caring she was and how she will be missed".

Seven people have been arrested in connection with the investigation, five boys and two girls. All are aged between 13 and 17. No further action is being taken against any of them.

Anyone with information about the incident should call Crimestoppers anonymously on 08000 555 111, or Northamptonshire Police on 101.

PICTURE THIS

Firefighters pictured assessing the damage after last week's blaze

Former hospital site buildings wrecked in blaze

A clean-up operation was taking place earlier this week after a huge fire at the former St Crispin Hospital site in Northampton.

More than 70 firefighters tackled the fire in Duston last Wednesday night. A total of 12 crews of firefighters were called out to the derelict building shortly before 11pm. Irish firm WN Developments took over the site in 2009 and announced major plans to bring it back to life. However, five years later no development of the former psychiatric hospital has yet taken place, and it had been the target of vandals.

Motors

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INJURY PREVENTION:

Your bike should be properly serviced, the correct size, appropriate style for your needs, and adjusted to fit your body, as having the saddle, pedals and handlebars in the wrong position will put increased pressure on the joints, muscles and tendons.

Wear appropriate clothing (including a helmet) and carry snacks and drinks if cycling for more than an hour to avoid dehydration and fatigue that could lead to muscle strains.

Warm up with some gentle stretches of the lower back and shoulders and start off cycling slowly to allow legs to warm up.

Set realistic goals and plan an appropriate route for your capabilities.

Common cycling injuries include neck pain, knee pain, hip pain, back pain and foot pain. However, **knee injuries**, including patellofemoral pain syndrome, iliotibial band syndrome and **ligament sprains** are the most common cycling injuries mainly due to overuse or falls but also related to dysfunction of surrounding joints.

Treatment of knee pain by chiropractors may involve manipulation or 'adjustments' to the knee and surrounding joints to increase movement and restore normal function, along with soft tissue therapy, laser therapy and dry needling techniques. Home exercises are also commonly advised

If you feel pain during or after cycling, don't ignore it! Contact your local ISIS chiropractor for prompt, professional treatment and advice.

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Museums stripped

Museums in Northampton have been stripped of Arts Council England (ACE) accreditation following the £16m sale of the Sekhemka statue.

Family silver? Both Abington Park and Northampton Museum and Art Gallery have lost thei the Sekhemka statue

After weeks of speculation, the regulatory body announced it had a 'substantive disagreement' with the way the borough council had handled the sale of the 4,000 BC Egyptian artefact.

It means the borough council will no longer be able to apply to ACE for a range of grant funding until 2019.

Director of ACE's acquisitions, exports and loans unit, Scott Furlong said: "It is always hugely regrettable when we have to exclude a museum from the accreditation scheme.

"However, it is equally important that we are robust in upholding the standards and principles which underpin the scheme."

The ancient statue was sold at a Christie's auction to a mystery phone bidder in July.

A total 40 per cent of the £16m sale will go to the Marquis of Northampton, in honour of an ancestral deed of gift.

But Leader of Northampton Borough Council, Councillor David Mackintosh (*Con, Rectory Farm*) said the remaining money would allow the authority to attract alternative funding, adding: "The funding from ACE does not contribute to the general running of the museum, which costs £900,000 a year.

"Nevertheless, we do believe that we have followed the correct process in making this sale and so are considering an appeal."

Northampton's Liberal Democrat group said the two museums should now be put into a

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# of accreditation

ir accredited status with Arts Council England, following the controversial sale of

trust to protect more of the town's 'family silver' from being sold off.

Councillor Brendan Glynane, (*Lib Dem, Briar Hill and Delapre*) said: "This awful plundering of the town's heritage for a quick pay day has permanently damaged the reputation of Northampton on the national stage.

"The museums will be worse off financially as well as culturally."

Punishment 'was due to manner of statue sale'

NORTHAMPTON Borough Council will now join a list of other authorities to lose accredited status for disposing of former display items.

Museums run by Derbyshire County Council were excluded in the early 1990s after the authority sold items from Buxton Museum's collections. Bury Museum was excluded in 2005 after a Lowry painting was sold.

The Museum of Croydon was excluded last December after the borough council disposed of items from the Riesco collection of Chinese ceramics. ACE also found that, in 2010, its sale of the Royal Scot locomotive did not comply with the accreditation standard in that the locomotive had not been first offered to other accredited museums under the regulatory body's guidelines. A spokesman for the Museums Association said Northampton Borough Council lost accreditation - not because it sold the artefact, but for the manner in which it was sold. "If they had gone through the proper process there might have been a better outcome," the spokesman claimed.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Sales drop is a big issue

Big Issue sales have plummeted in Northampton since the price of the magazine was raised to £2.50, according to figures released by the Hope Centre.

The charity branch in Campbell Street acts as the collection point for the town's vendors, from which it used to distribute 1,200 copies of the 'street paper' a week.

The publication is a vital income for numerous homeless people in Northampton, but the current weekly sales tally is now standing at an average of 780.

Manager of the Hope Centre, Catherine Maryon, said: "People are happy to hand over a pound or a pound fifty.

"But when you are talking three coins, maybe there is something psychological stopping people from buying it."

The sales, Mrs Maryon said, have been gradually dropping off since the rise was introduced in 2012.

It used to cost £2, but increased by 50p in 2012 to coincide with a title relaunch, which gave it a more 'confrontational look', a glossier print finish and an editorial shift towards more political content.

Big Issue vendor, Mark Franklin, who regularly sells outside Marks & Spencer in the town centre.

Big Issue vendors, who effectively run a small business, now buy their copies for £1.25 each and keep the same amount in profit, compared to the previous figure of £1.

But one seller, Mark Franklin, 38, who regularly sells outside the Marks & Spencer store in Abington Street, said his income had gradually dropped since the price change.

"I used to sell quite a few," he said. "Before lunchtime I would have got through quite a chunk of them.

"The thing is £2 is easier for people to find than £2.50.

"We do struggle to sell them now, we keep trying to say it should come down."

Sales of the title are down five per cent year-on-year since the price hike. But commercial director of *Big Issue*, Mark Reid, said the organisation was left with no choice because of the decline in print sales across the industry.

He said: "We are affected in exactly the same way a newspaper or magazine is, in that many people are moving to the free digital environment."

In response the magazine has launched a subscription service and an e-edition which can be viewed online. The funds generated will be distributed to the *Big Issue*'s regional street teams.

"Our view is that we would rather see a sale than not," Mr Reid added. "But we would always prefer it if people bought directly from the vendor."

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Paul Blinkhorn revealed a range of items found at an excavation in Angel Street

TV expert reveals medieval discoveries

A history expert from Channel 4's Time Team programme presented the remains of medieval industry found at a site in Northampton town centre.

Post-Roman pottery expert, Paul Blinkhorn, exhibited pieces of jewellery and pottery at a dig which has uncovered almost a whole street of 13th Century workshops.

The findings – which include the remains of a bakery, tanning shops and a possible domestic property – were shown to the public at an open day which continues today (Thursday).

They were found during an excavation in Angel Street as archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) prepare the site for Project Angel, which will see the construction of new headquarters for Northamptonshire County Council.

Mr Blinkhorn, who lives in Abington and used to work on

archaeology projects in Northampton, said: "It's early days to say exactly what we have here, but we have uncovered boxes and boxes of pieces and I will be looking at each individually to find patterns of change to help date the site.

"For example, burn marks found on pots point to lots of cooking work."

MOLA senior project manager, Jim Brown, said: "We expected to find a series of medieval building plots as, towards the end of the 13th Century, the town was in its heyday with industry and investment flooding in after the king said he wanted to make it the capital town of England.

"We have found purpose-built workshops, showing totally different activities going on next to each other to produce goods, probably to support the merchants around the Kingswell Street area.

"There are the remains of various ovens, including a bread oven and a special moulting oven, used for barley in the brewing industry. Certain animal bones and tanks point to skinning and tanning, possibly indicating the start of the town's leather industry."

The excavation began earlier this year and is scheduled to finish in September. The open day on the site continues today from 1.30pm to 3pm and is accessible via the St John's Street entrance.

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Balloons to celebrate event's birthday party

THE Northampton Balloon Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary this weekend when it takes place at Billing Aquadrome.

More than 40 hot air balloons from all across the country are due to attend the birthday event, on August 15–17, taking to the skies at 6am and 6pm every day, weather permitting.

Park manager, Mark McGarry, said "We are very excited to be hosting the festival again and very proud that it will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at Billing Aquadrome.

"It will certainly be a fun-filled weekend."

On the ground the event promises plenty for visitors to enjoy, including a fun fair, inflatables, go carts, pedal boats and a trade stands craft fair.

The American Auto Club will also be staging an event all weekend.

Barry Newman, director of the Balloon Festival, said: "Billing Aquadrome provides a good location for the festival.

"It is one of the events that Northampton is known for around the world."

Party time The Northampton Balloon Festival this month celebrates its 25th birthday in the town

Day tickets are priced £10 per car (up to five occupants) and weekend camping and touring pitches are available from £20 per night.

The Northampton Balloon Festival began in 1989 on The Racecourse and quickly gained a reputation for being among the country's biggest, along with Southampton and Bristol.

For more information about the event, visit www.billingaquadrome.com.

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Tributes to martial arts legend, Mick

Tributes have been paid to a judo master whose martial arts teachings inspired hundreds, including an Olympic silver medallist.

Michael or 'Mick' Effernan, originally from Ballina in Ireland, passed away at Cliftonville Care Home last week aged 87.

But the judo instructor, who attained his black belt aged 82, lived most of his life in the Parklands area and was among the first to bring the martial art to Northampton.

Working as a labourer in Kings Heath in the aftermath of World War Two, he and a set of colleagues began by practising throwing moves in a makeshift sandpit, wearing Wellington

boots and boiler suits under the tutorship of Frank Patching, who had served in Japan during the war.

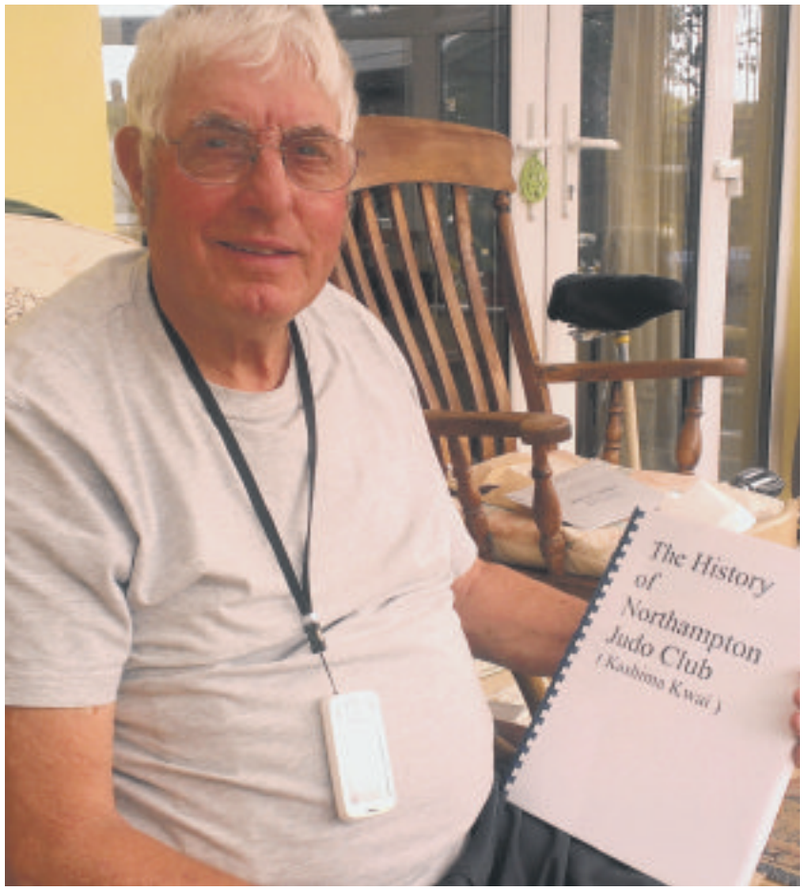
Mr Patching set up Northampton Judo Club in a room in Silver Street in 1948 and Mick joined soon after.

The man from County Mayo proved to be a natural in the sport, going on to win Midlands and national championships and acting as an instructor at the club until the early 1970s.

One of his protege's, Stan Clark, said: "Mick was a brilliant tutor, very quiet and he would tell you to practise and practise until you got it right, until it became instinct . If you had to think about a move, you were already too slow."

Mr Clark, now 75 and living in Harpole, joined Northampton Judo Club in 1961 and would go on to teach it in schools for 27 years.

Now retired, he said he owed his career to Mick's teachings. He said: "I just hope he's never forgotten. The town owes him a great deal."



Stan Clark, of Harpole, was one of judo master Mick Heffernan's proteges. This week he has paid tribute to the Irishman, who passed away on July 28. Mick is pictured inset

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Homeowner's 10-year fly-tipping troubles

A homeowner says 'almost constant' fly-tipping on a strip of land behind his house in Briar Hill has turned the area into a tip.

Wayde Rathbone is trying to get measures put in place to curb fly-tippers

Wayde Rathbone, of The Briars, said he had been attempting to get the borough council to clean up the latest pile of rubbish, strewn across the grassy area, for the past month.

But he believes the land is a fly-tipping hotspot because many Briar Hill residents do not have transport to take their extra rubbish to a recycling centre.

He also said the problem resurfaced every bin day as the area only received a 'sack collection' and was not provided with wheelie bins.

Now he is spending more time at home battling a serious illness, Mr Rathbone said he was fed up of the sight and is urging the council to provide residents with a long-term solution to combat the tippers.

"They should be putting CCTV in here," he said. "So they can monitor who is doing it and fine them. They should put a big skip here too."

Mr Rathbone, aged 48, a project designer for a web design company, said he had been calling the council for 10 years to try to resolve the tipping issue.

But cabinet member for environment Councillor Mike Hallam (*Con, Parklands*) said help could be on the horizon.

He said: "The issue of fly tipping in The Briars is an ongoing problem that we are trying to resolve. While our partners at Enterprise are removing fly tipping that is reported, we agree with Mr Rathbone that a more long-term solution is needed.

"Our public protection officers are looking at different options, including stepping up patrols and installing surveillance cameras. They are also looking at the rubbish collection arrangements in the area to see if more can be done to make it easier for people to dispose of their rubbish."

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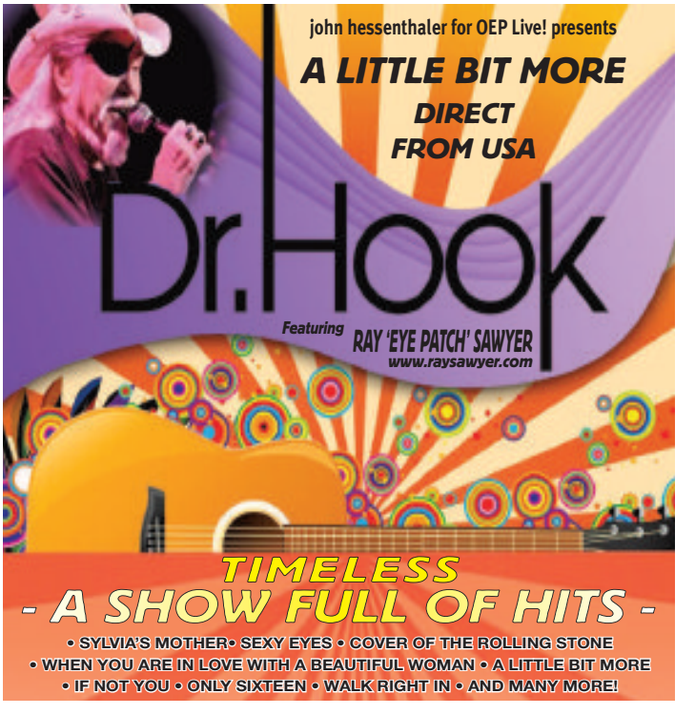

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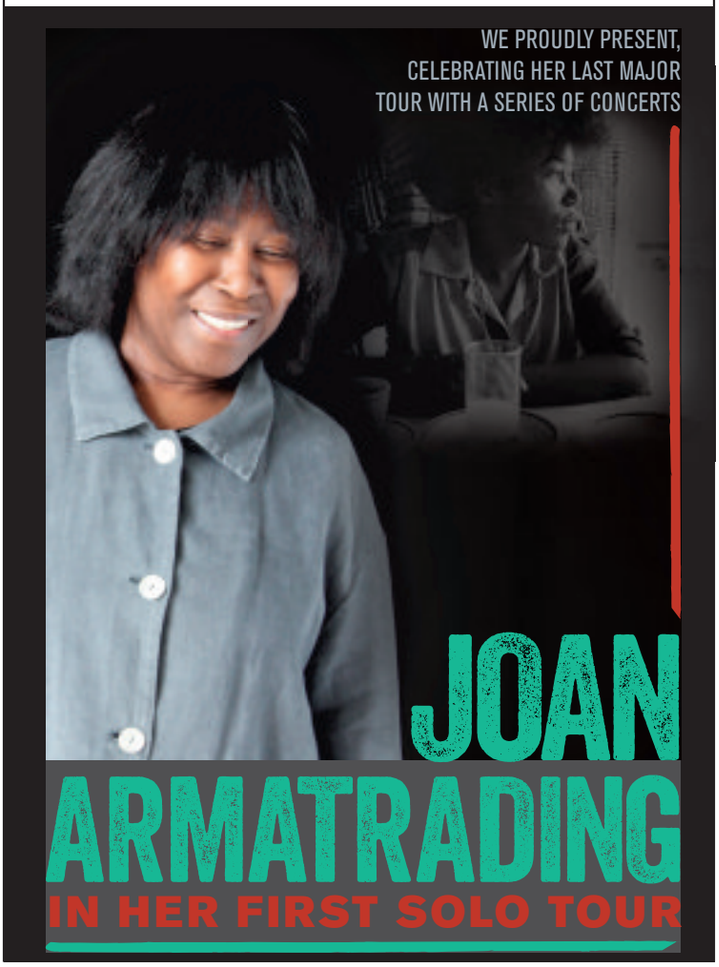

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Demolition plan for offices

Work to demolish a vacant office block in Northampton as part of the town's Heritage Gateway project has started.

Castle House is being demolished as part of plans to improve Marefair area.

Castle House, in Marefair, next to Sol Central, will be demolished as part of the area's regeneration.

Workers will be on site making preparations to flatten the building and the demolition is expected to be completed in November.

Various options are being considered as to how the site will be used, with initial ideas due to be revealed at the end of this month.

Leader of the county council, Councillor Jim Harker, said: "The demolition of Castle House is an important step in the transformation of this key route into Northampton, improving it for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

"Final details have yet to be decided, but the site will be an integral part of the work already taking place to develop the railway station and enhancing this part of the town, while also highlighting Northampton's exciting heritage."

Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton Borough Council, Friends of Northampton Castle, the Churches Conservation Trust and the University of Northampton are working together on the Heritage Gateway project.

The Heritage Gateway aims to celebrate the town's rich history, with a focus on the former Northampton Castle site, as well as emphasising other important heritage features in the surrounding area, including the historic St Peter's Church, the only remaining building in the area that existed at the same time as the castle.

Peter Aiers, director South East, of The Churches Conservation Trust, said: "We really welcome another step on the way to regenerating the area around one of the finest Norman churches in England.

"We hope that the regeneration will bring activity, both economic and community based, to bring this area of Northampton back to its' historic level of importance to the town. We congratulate this bold initiative shown by the Heritage Gateway Partnership and look forward to continuing our support for the strategic plans.

Northampton Mercury

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The Spanish Riding School
of Vienna at Wembley

Departing Saturday 15 November 2014

The world-famous White Lipizzaner stallions and their regal riders are returning to the UK this autumn to dazzle crowds with their astonishing displays of highly technical and graceful dressage set to classical music. The school rarely perform outside their native Austria, so don't miss out on one of the most elegant, exciting and captivating events of the year.

Look what's included.....

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at the Royal Albert Hall

Departing Saturday 22 November 2014

The UK's most popular classical music extravaganza returns to the Royal Albert Hall in November with a programme combining the very best in popular classical music with stunning visual accompaniment and dazzling special effects, bringing to life the scenes and moods evoked by each glorious piece.

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Hundreds sign up for town's 'Boris bikes'

Cycle CoNNect bikes have been used more than 350 times since the scheme began.

The 'Boris bike'-style cycle hire scheme in Northampton has had a promising start, with more than 350 rentals in the first two weeks.

Cycle CoNNECt launched last month allowing people to use bicycles from a series of 'hubs' across the town.

This week the county council reported there have been 362 rentals so far, with 152 of those coming in the first week.

Becket's Park has been the most popular of those 'hubs'.

Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for highways, transport and environment, Councillor Michael Clarke, said: "This is a tremendous start for this very exciting project and I'm delighted that so many people have been able to use these wonderful bikes to cycle around Northampton.

"No doubt the glorious summer weather we've been enjoying has helped encourage people to take part in the scheme, but I'm confident that once people get a taste for how easy and convenient Cycle CoNNect is, they will continue to use it."

Bike hire costs £1 up to one hour, then £1 for each additional hour up to a maximum of £5 per day. However initially, as a promotional offer, the first 30 minutes of each journey are free of charge.

Registration is free, though on registration, users will have to add an initial £3 of credit to their account, which will remain in place until they use it for rentals. A total of six hubs will be available from next week.

These are in Mercer's Row, Becket's Park, Midsummer Meadow and in Gowerton Road, Salthouse Road and Pavilion Drive on the Brackmills industrial estate.

In the autumn, hubs will be available at Northampton railway station (two hubs) and the University of Northampton (both Avenue campus and Park campus).

Wednesday and Sunday are most popular days

■ **The most common journey is a circular trip starting and ending at Becket's Park, followed by Midsummer Meadow back to Midsummer Meadow.**

Some regular customers have been taking advantage of the bikes, with the top two renters each hiring bikes on 13 occasions.

Wednesdays and Sundays are the most popular bike-hire days with the average rental time ranging from just under 30 minutes on Mondays to more than two hours on Sundays.

■ **For more information about the scheme head to the website www.cycleconnect.co.uk**

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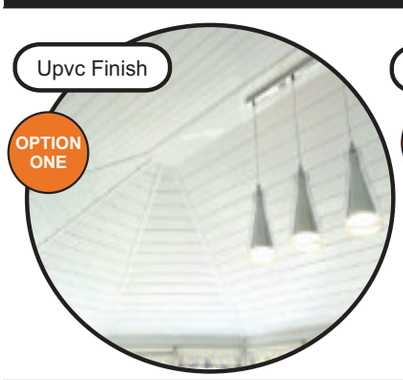

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BY IAN DONALDSON
www.motorstoday.co.uk

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Quieter and smoother riding

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You won't pay any annual road tax, but since the London congestion charge rules were tightened in 2013, the CT200h will cost its driver £11.50 every time the car ventures into the heart of the capital, where once it roamed freely.

Out in the sticks (or north of Watford, which to a Londoner is much the same thing), you can appreciate this made-over Lexus for its quietness.

The ride is said to be better than before but this Lexus still feels overly stiff on bumps that you'd expect something with a dash of luxury in its make-up to laugh off.

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AYGO x-cite 1.0VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO2 Emissions 95g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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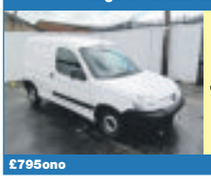

diesel 2002, 12 months MOT, Taxed, clean condition, ladder rack, Cd, £795ono **Tel:07902 010544**

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FORD FIESTA ZETEC 13, 1.2, 12295 miles, red, petrol, 2013, £7,950 ono **Tel:** 07792245681

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2003 £650 ono

Reliant

Reliant Robin LX 1l

3 door, petrol, petrol blue, 1995, 27000 miles, Needs MOT and service, Got a new battery, spair exhaust if required.. £1700 ono **Tel:01526 745397**

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Citroen

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2009 £3250 ono (pic ref)

FORD KA 1.3 3 door hatchback, petrol, black, 11 months Mot. Good condition. **Tel:** 07854 732429

2005 £1050

FORD KA ZETEC CLIMATE 57, 1.3, 37000 miles, black, petrol, 2008, Full Service History, Tax and MOT to Jan 15.. £2,500 **Tel:** 07952096308

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2010 £6,700 ono

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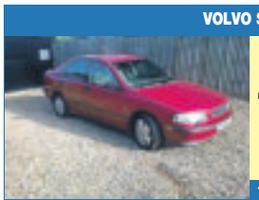
2004 £900 ono

Volvo

VOLVO S40 XS 1.8



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NO TIME TO WASTE Hard-working, N/S, divorced lady, 57, 5'7'', likes travel, gardening, films, walking, seeking a caring, genuine man to share happy times with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151470 or send a text to 80361**

THE BETTER HALF Warm-hearted, sensitive and reliable Northampton female, 59, 5'9'', curvy, searching for a sunny, trustworthy, tall man, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 162457 or send a text to 80361**

LIFE IS TOO SHORT Happy, friendly Corby lady, 63, non smoker, tall and slim, enjoys walks, animals, cinema, theatre, holidays and home life, would like to meet a similar gentleman, for friendship and future happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 174072 or send a text to 80361**

COMPANION NEEDED Bubbly, honest, 65 year old female, retired, enjoy walks in the country, football and occasional nights out. Would like to meet a male of a similar age for companionship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176013 or send a text to 80361**

LET'S DO DINNER Retired, caring Northampton lady, 68, enjoys dining out, aqua aerobics and soul music, would like to meet a kind, honest, reliable male, to share quality time together and see what happens. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149483**

EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS WITH ME Slim 68 year old Daventry lady, widow, non-smoker, loves walking, nature, painting and National Trust. Would like to meet an active, creative man for company and exploring life. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 174565 or send a text to 80361**

GOOD NATURED Friendly, caring, young looking Rugby lady, 77, 5'10'', enjoys walks, theatre, board games, days out, theatre, holidays, would like to meet a similar gent, to share happy times with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166417 or send a text to 80361**

Men seeking women

I'M READY FOR LOVE Friendly, reliable Rugby man, 31, 6'3'', with GSOH, interested in art, photography and drumming, would like to meet a woman, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149827**

FUN-LOVING, EASYGOING Funny, caring, 39 year old Northampton male, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build. Likes nights out, cinema, dinner, outdoor stuff, also like cosy nights in. WLTM a down-to-earth female, who's up for a laugh. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 163377 or send a text to 80361**

KEEP AN OPEN MIND Kind, trustworthy Kettering man, 41, 5'10'', brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes music, eating out and pubs, seeks a woman for friendship, company and good times. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156434 or send a text to 80361**

LOOK NO FURTHER Active, caring, genuine, 50 year old Rugby male, 6'2'', well-built, brown hair, blue eyes. Seeking a female in Rugby for a long-term relationship, must like pubs, keeping fit and sports. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167108 or send a text to 80361**

LOOKING FOR LASTING ROMANCE Easygoing, romantic Kettering male, 50, 6ft, medium build, enjoys cosy evenings in and cooking, looking for a similar female, to care for and love each other. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149438 or send a text to 80361**

LIFE-LOVING LIKE ME? Lonely, honest, caring male, 54, looking to find someone I can share my life with and look after. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151117 or send a text to 80361**

LETS GET OUT THERE Genuine, sincere and caring, 55 year old Lutterworth male, divorced, would like to meet a friendly lady, who has a good sense of humour, for evenings out and to enjoy life together. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171786 or send a text to 80361**

JUST LOOKING FOR ROMANCE Romantic, professional, handsome male, 60, N/S, own house, car and business, honest, tactile and lovely open personality, seeks a female, for long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158935 or send a text to 80361**

LOT OF LOVE FOR THE RIGHT PERSON Attractive, slim, solvent male, 60, with lots of love to give, simply seeking a caring, loving lady, for friendship and hopefully lasting love and romance. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148942 or send a text to 80361**

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Romantic, professional, trustworthy Market Harborough male, 60, own home and car, no ties, GSOH, N/S, would like to meet an open and honest woman, for a lasting and loving relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156664**

ROLL THE DICE Sweet, thoughtful and truthful Northampton guy, 60, 5'9'', hard-working, just looking to meet a genuine and rational female, for love and an honest future together. Let's enjoy life. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171166 or send a text to 80361**

GET TOGETHER Divorced, naturist male, 62, enjoys weekends away, swimming, evenings in, seeks female to share lifestyle with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152936 or send a text to 80361**

CHEERS TO US! Well-travelled, divorced Kettering male, 63, GSOH, 6'1'', medium build, enjoys the countryside, gardening and long drives, would like to meet a tall, slim, attractive lady, for future happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153644 or send a text to 80361**

Caring, 64 year old male, would like to meet a female companion to join me on my travels around the country to various seaside resorts and to enjoy days on my boat at weekends. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176879 or send a text to 80361**

LOOKING FOR MY SOUL MATE Friendly, kind, considerate and thoughtful, 65 year old Rugby male, average build, 5'11'', easygoing, would like to meet an honest woman to share life with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171209 or send a text to 80361**

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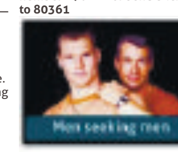
LASTING HAPPINESS Sincere, 66 year old male, 6ft, medium build, divorced, solvent, no ties, own home and car, enjoy country walks and the quiet life. Seeks a local female for a lasting friendship or relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176793 or send a text to 80361**

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Athletic Northampton man, 67, N/S, 6'1'', own home, full head of hair, enjoys dancing, socialising, laughs, looking for a slim, N/S lady who enjoys life to the fullest. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152940**

SIMILAR INTERESTS? Sincere, 69 year old Rushden male, 6ft, non-smoker, smart dresser, active, enjoy outdoors life, sports, music and going out. Seeks a nice, attractive lady, who is smartly dressed to share interests. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 175708 or send a text to 80361**

Women seeking women

LIKE MINDS ATTRACT Sensitive, 30 year old Banbury female, blue eyes, 5'6'', would like to meet a similar girl, for friendship and possibly more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176222 or send a text to 80361**


Men seeking men

FUN AND LAUGHS Friendly, honest, straight-forward, 60 year old Northampton male, 5'8'', would like to meet a local like-minded male, for fun friendship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166971 or send a text to 80361**

START IT OVER Friendly, sincere, 63 year old Northampton male, slim build, would like to meet a local bisexual or gay male, for friendship, fun and happy times. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 172984**

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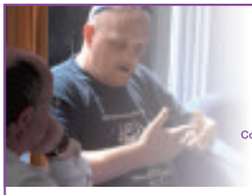

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SPORT

Cobblers are up and running!

Wilder delighted as Cobblers seal rare opening-day win

FOOTBALL

Cobblers boss Chris Wilder admitted his team should have beaten Mansfield by more than a single goal on Saturday but was delighted to see the side record their first opening-day win in six years.

Not since the 4-2 win over Cheltenham in 2008/09 have Northampton picked up three points in their first fixture of a campaign.

On-loan Port Vale winger Kaid Mohamed ensured that sequence came to an end when he headed in the winner against a sloppy Stags side after 23 minutes.

Mohamed himself becomes the first Town player to score a goal on the opening day since Leon Constantine did so - also in his debut - in that win over the Robins.

It was a well-deserved victory but one that might have been secured by a greater margin, with Marc Richards and Ivan Toney having chances to make the winning margin more emphatic in the second half.

But while Wilder admits his players could have - and perhaps should have - put the game to bed earlier, he was happy to toast a job well done and three points on the board.

"Every manager is after the same result on the opening day to get their season up and running and we've managed to do that," said the Town boss, whose team were one of nine to record a Sky Bet League Two maximum in opening day.

"Mansfield are going to take points off teams this season. They are always a tough team to play, especially on the first day. That was a tough first game so to get a victory is very important for us.

"It was a tight first half but we managed to get the goal to get our noses in front. Mansfield are a competitive side and you have to fight to compete with them.

"For most of the second half we opened up and should have sewn the game up. We had chances and I'm disappointed we didn't kill them off."

As pleased as he was with the result, Wilder is well aware his team can improve; Mansfield mounted a brief, late spell of pressure on Saturday and although it came to nothing, the manager knows it is an element of the game that could have been better.

He added: "Our ball retention was disappointing, especially in the first half, but there will be a lot more to come from us."

GOOD START Chris Wilder was a happy man after seeing his side record a 1-0 victory over Mansfield at Sixfields on Saturday PICTURE: KIRSTY EDMONDS

Fielding errors continue to haunt County

CRICKET

YOU know the old cliché about catches winning matches?

Well, truism or not, it is certainly a statement Northants head coach David Ripley can agree with.

He watched another poor performance by his side in the field prove costly as Derbyshire won by six runs in the Royal London One-Day Cup on Monday night.

And he wants to see a marked improvement in an aspect of the game that has plagued them throughout the campaign.

"If you look at the Derbyshire game our run chase was alright and some aspects of bowling went well but the fielding was the difference," Ripley stated.

"And it is not the first time that has happened either.

"We put down three catches - all of which were very crucial.

"We dropped their man (Wes Durston) on single figures and he went to make a hundred.

"(Marcus) North doubled his score after we put him down.

"And there were chases to the boundary and little flick backs they produced in the field that we didn't.

"You put those all together and it makes much more than a six-run swing so that is where we lost the game."

It is not something that easily rectifiable either.

After a gruelling, and at times demoralising, summer it is perhaps understandable that the bubble has burst a little in the field.

Not that Ripley will let it slip. He continued: "We will continue to work at it.

"We haven't got so many natural athletes in our side at the moment.

"Some of our better fielders are missing through injury or selection issues.

"But it has been hitting us all season. We can't make excuses.

"Yes it was a bit greasy on Monday night and the strong wind made it difficult to get an atmosphere going out there.

"But we have been making the same mistakes for a long time.

"We will do our training and work hard to improve.

"It is not easy to create the same intensity for your fielding drills now after a long season as it is in April or May.

"But we have to get that aspect of our game at a higher level as it is costing us dear."

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10:30	24	**DESERT SPRINGS** Meerkat Feed
10:45	24	**OTTER FALLS (DESERT SPRINGS)** Otter Feed
11:00	22	**MONKEY BUSINESS** Feed and Talk
11:30	16	**SEA LION BEACH** Outdoor Talk
	17	**SEA LION COVE*** 3D Sammy & Ray and 2D Animal Maternity
11:45	2	**PENGUIN WORLD** Feed and Talk
12:00	30	**BIRDS OF PREY** Demonstration
12:15	3	**LAND OF LEMURS** Feed and Talk
12:30	11	**GREAT WOBURN RAILWAY TO DEER STOP**
	17	**SEA LION COVE*** Indoor sea lion show with 2D Animal Maternity
13:00	18	**BIRDS IN ACTION** Demonstration
	22	**MONKEY BUSINESS** Feed and Talk
13:30	11	**GREAT WOBURN RAILWAY TO DEER STOP**
	32	**ELEPHANT MEADOW** Elephant Meet and Greet
	24	**OTTER FALLS (DESERT SPRINGS)** Otter Feed
14:00	30	**BIRDS OF PREY** Demonstration
	31	**AUSTRALIAN WALKABOUT** Feed
14:30	3	**LAND OF LEMURS** Feed and Talk
	11	**GREAT WOBURN RAILWAY TO DEER STOP**
	17	**SEA LION COVE*** 3D Sammy & Ray and 2D Animal Maternity
15:00	18	**BIRDS IN ACTION** Demonstration
15:30	11	**GREAT WOBURN RAILWAY TO DEER STOP**
	17	**SEA LION COVE*** Indoor sea lion show with 2D Animal Maternity
15:45	22	**MONKEY BUSINESS** Feed and Talk
16:00	30	**BIRDS OF PREY** Demonstration
	31	**AUSTRALIAN WALKABOUT** Feed
16:30	3	**LAND OF LEMURS** Feed and Talk
	11	**GREAT WOBURN RAILWAY TO DEER STOP**
16:45	17	**SEA LION COVE*** 3D Sammy & Ray and 2D Animal Maternity
17:00	2	**PENGUIN WORLD** Feed and Talk
17:30	24	**OTTER FALLS (DESERT SPRINGS)** Otter Feed
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